Pets

Pets are not allowed on any park trails; pets are permitted along roadways and parking lots. Pets must be kept on leashes no longer than six feet.

Important Information and Safety **Considerations**

- Swift Water: mountain streams can be dangerous, especially during runoff. Remain back from the banks of streams and rivers. Provide proper supervision for children, who by nature, tend to be attracted to water. Rocks at streamside and in the stream are often slippery, and water beneath them may be deep. Powerful currents in park streams can quickly pull a person underwater and pin him/her below the surface. Melting snow feeds park streams, resulting in extremely cold water temperatures.
- High elevations can cause altitude sickness and may aggravate existing medical conditions; use caution.
- Take sufficient time to acclimatize to the park's high altitude before doing strenuous hikes. Rest, drink lots of fluids, and start with short hikes.
- Stay together as a hiking party. Don't separate; keep children with the family or group.
- Stay on the trail. Shortcutting causes erosion.
- Wear sturdy foot gear. A hike in this environment requires good ankle support and a treaded sole.
- Pack extra water and snacks. Traveling in high elevations requires lots of water. Don't drink from streams or lakes without treating the water.
- Weather conditions in Rocky Mountain National Park can change quickly. The wilderness, though beautiful, can be harsh. Expect snow, gusty winds, and cold temperatures at any time.
- Afternoon thunderstorms and lightning strikes are common. If a storm approaches, get below treeline quickly. Always take rain gear hiking.
- Do not rely on cell phones in Rocky Mountain National Park. Many locations in this rugged park, including Wild Basin, have no service.

Beware of Falling Trees

Falling trees are an ever-present hazard. When traveling or camping in the forest, trees can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful when it's windy, or following a snowstorm when branches are heavy with snow. Avoid parking or camping in areas where trees could fall.

Essentials to Wear and Carry

- · Lots of water
- High-energy food
- Rain gear
- Hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Sturdy footwear
- First aid kit

- Topographic map and compass/GPS
- Flashlight or headlamp
- · Waterproof matches
- Pocket knife
- · Whistle
- · Common sense!

Park Information Emergencies

970-586-1206 or online at www.nps.gov/romo **Trail Ridge Road Status** 970-586-1222 (recorded & updated messages)

911: tell the Dispatcher you are in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage. EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA C-WBSU-5/14

Rocky Mountain

National Park Service U.S. Department of Interior Rocky Mountain National Park





Due to the 2013 Flood, backcountry hikers may encounter missing foot bridges, missing trail segments, difficult water crossings and unstable slopes. Please ask a ranger, stop at a visitor center, or visit the park website, www.nps.gov/romo, for more specific, updated information.

Narrow Road, **Limited Parking**

The Wild Basin Road is gravel and narrows to one lane in many spots. It is not suitable for large vehicles like RVs. Park in designated areas only. Wide spots in the road are for oncoming cars to pass each other, not for parking. Violators may be ticketed or towed.

Trailhead Food Storage

When people let bears get into food and garbage, the lure of an easy meal can overcome a bear's natural wariness of people. Once bears learn to follow their supersensitive noses to a "food reward," they can damage property and even break into cars. With a nose that's 100 times more sensitive than ours, a bear can literally smell food five miles away. Bears are very smart, and have great memories; once they find food, they come back for more. Black bears are not naturally aggressive, but they are strong, powerful animals. A bear intent on getting a meal can easily injure someone who gets in its way. Every year in Colorado bears that have become too comfortable around people have to be destroyed.

Bears are active April through November. Don't attract wildlife, including black bears, to parked vehicles and backcountry campsites because of improperly stored food items. Bears can visit any time of day!

Food items are defined as food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odiferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans and food wrappers, must be stored or disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles.

Day use visitors parking at trailheads must store all food items and garbage inside vehicle trunks. In vehicles without trunks, place items as low in the vehicle passenger compartment as possible and covered from sight, with vehicle windows and doors closed and locked. Visitors parking overnight in the Wild Basin area are required to use food storage lockers for storage of all food items; it is prohibited to leave food items or garbage within a vehicle when parking overnight here. Food storage lockers are located at the Wild Basin, Finch Lake, and Sandbeach Lake Trailheads.

